

the nomination of a candidate and refusing to support a candidate nominated over my protest. I distinguish between these two propositions just as the law distinguishes between the act of a lawyer who defends a prisoner after a crime has been committed and the act of a lawyer who conspires with the prisoner to commit a crime."

Governor Brewer of Mississippi then obtained recognition, and, with Mr. Bryan's consent, submitted the following question:

"If Mr. Clark, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Kern, or Mr. Foss is nominated by this convention by a two-thirds majority, with New York voting for the man who is nominated, will you support the democratic nominee?"

Mr. Bryan: "I deny the right of any man to put a hypothetical question to me unless he is prepared to include in that question every essential element that enters into it so that the question can be fully understood and intelligently answered."

"Having denied the right of the gentleman to ask the question and having called his attention to the fact that he is taking advantage of a political assembly to ask a question which he would not dare to ask in any court of justice, I now answer him:

"I expect to support the nominee of this convention. I expect the nominee of this convention to be worthy of the support of every delegate. I have no reason to believe that any man will be nominated who would accept a nomination at the hands of Mr. Murphy and the influences back of him. I will not give bond to make further answer to the hypothetical question put by the gentleman from Mississippi until we are in a position to supply the necessary facts which his question omits—facts necessary to an understanding of the situation upon which we will be called to act."

"Now, I am prepared to announce my vote, with the understanding that I stand ready to withdraw my vote from the candidate for whom I now cast it if Mr. Murphy casts the ninety votes of New York for him. I cast my vote for Nebraska's second choice—Governor Wilson."

MR. BRYAN'S VALEDICTORY

The Pittsburgh Press thus describes what it calls, "The Passing of Bryan:"

The voluntary passing of Bryan was the one great dramatic incident of the night. The convention had stopped in the middle of its roll call on the nominations to spend a couple of hours disposing of the platform, and the usual resolutions. It was long past midnight when it resumed its labors. The roll was proceeding slowly. The vast auditorium was still jammed with people. The galleries had been listening in amusement to the efforts of orators to pay eloquent tributes to the man they were placing in nomination for the vice presidency.

The heat and the lateness of the hour had had its effect and 50 per cent of the crowd was lazily lolling back in chairs, hoping for something to enliven the monotony. The reading clerk finally reached the District of Columbia next to the last on the list. He had to call twice. Finally the figure of a fat man climbed on a chair. He was wet with perspiration. His collar was a rag and his general appearance one of complete physical exhaustion. There was a general laugh from the gallery and then the representative of the District in a voice that penetrated to every part of the big armory began:

"Mr. Chairman," he shouted, "we have nominated for the head of this ticket a man whom every one admits is progressive. We believe that his success is assured. But to make assurance doubly sure I now nominate as our candidate for the vice presidency of the United States the most progressive of all Americans, the man who personally has created these policies which mean the placing of this nation of ours on record as insisting on the absolute right of the people to rule, the greatest of all living Americans—the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska."

There was a pause that seemed to last 10 minutes. It actually lasted 10 seconds, and then came the wildest, most hysterical outburst of cheering that had marked the convention. From the delegates themselves, from the galleries, and from the dim recesses of the great dust-filled building there went up a roar that seemed like the whistle of a thousand locomotives merged into one.

Down in the very front in the seat set apart for him by the Nebraska delegation Bryan was sitting. Motionless he remained, the palm-leaf

fan clenched in his hand; his hair disheveled; his face ashen white. But as the cheering continued and increased in volume a red blush mantled the commoner's face and head.

"Bryan! We want Bryan!" the refrain echoed and re-echoed from one section of the hall to the other which reverberated back from the ceilings until it was deafening.

At last Bryan climbed on his chair. "Platform! Platform!" the refrain went up, and in obedience to the cry, Bryan slowly mounted to the same spot, where a few days ago he had denounced to their faces Murphy, Ryan and Belmont.

Bryan did not speak long, but every word he uttered will ever be remembered by those who heard it. He spoke, in a voice that at times trembled with emotion, of regret that the personal enmities he had engendered during the sixteen years he had been leading democracy, made it necessary for him to relinquish the leadership into their hands.

The presentation of Mr. Bryan's name was made by a District of Columbia delegate whose identity Mr. Bryan has not yet learned. Thus brought before the convention during its closing hours Mr. Bryan delivered, extemporaneously, the following valedictory:

"Mr. Chairman and members of the convention: You have been so generous with me in the allowance of time that I had not expected to trespass upon your patience again, but the compliment that has been paid me by the gentleman from the District of Columbia justifies, I hope, a word in the form of a valedictory."

"For sixteen years I have been a fighting man. Performing what I regarded as a public duty I have not feared to speak out on every public question before the people of the nation for settlement, and I have not hesitated to arouse the hostility of individuals where I felt it my duty to do so in behalf of my country."

"I have never advocated a man except with gladness and I have never opposed a man except in sadness. If I have any enemies in this country, those who are my enemies have a monopoly of hatred. There is not one single human being for whom I feel ill-will. Nor is

there one American citizen in my own party or in any other whom I would oppose for anything unless I believed that in not opposing him I was surrendering the interests of my country, which I hold above any person."

"I recognize that a man who fights must carry scars and I decided long before this campaign commenced that I had been in so many battles and had alienated so many persons that my party ought to have the leadership of someone who had not thus offended and who might, therefore, lead with greater hope of victory."

"Tonight I come with joy to surrender into the hands of the one chosen by this convention a standard which I have carried in three campaigns, and I challenge my enemies to say that it has ever been lowered in the face of the foe. The same belief that led me to prefer another for the presidency rather than to be a candidate myself, leads me to prefer another for the vice presidency."

"It is not because the vice presidency is lower in importance than the presidency that I decline. There is no office in this nation so low that I would not accept it if I could serve my country by so doing. But I believe that I can render more service when I have not the embarrassment of a nomination and the suspicion of a selfish interest—more service than I could as a candidate, but your candidate will not be more active in this campaign than I shall be. My services are at the command of the party. I feel relieved that the burden of leadership is transferred to other shoulders."

"All I ask is that, having given us a platform, the most progressive that any party has ever adopted in this nation, and, having given us a candidate, who, I believe, will appeal not only to the democratic vote but to some three or four million of republicans who have been alienated by the policies of their party, there is but one thing left, and that is to give us a vice president who is also progressive, so that there will be no joint debate between our candidates."

"In conclusion, I second the nomination, not of one man, but of two: Governor Burke, of North Dakota, and Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon."

Democratic Party the Progressive Party

The democratic party, with its progressive candidates and progressive platform, is the REAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY of this nation. The voters must not lose sight of this fact.

Unchanged in name, unchanged in its great fundamental principles, the democratic party represents the largest fighting unit for progressive reforms. Through it, the progressives of all parties can find the surest hope of victory for their cause.

The progressive forces made the fight in the democratic party and WON. By securing control of a great party organization, and backed by the prestige it gives them, they are in a position to give the progressive cause its most certain triumph. The democratic party invites the progressives of all parties to share in this victory, and to join them in securing a victory this fall that will forever stamp progressive ideas as a part of the policy of this nation.

Thousands of earnest republicans made the fight in their own party and LOST. They recognize that the organization of a new party will

only serve to make the progressive cause weaker and the failure more complete. They realize the democratic party of today is the party in which to concentrate the progressive strength. They also recognize that a vote for the democratic party this fall is a vote to serve notice on their own party that it MUST be progressive in the future in order to win their support.

The time is ripe for the forward progressive movement, and every worker should get in line. The predatory interests will make a desperate effort to beat the democratic party because they recognize in it the greatest foe of special privilege. There is work for everyone in this fight. Clubs should and must be organized in every precinct. Voters should be supplied with good campaign literature, and for this purpose nothing will serve better than a good democratic weekly paper sent to the voter personally during the campaign. The Commoner makes a special rate for this purpose—25c for single subscriptions from now until the close of the campaign—or four for \$1. Everyone can form a club in their precinct—making a special effort to place The Commoner in the hands of new voters and those who have formerly voted the republican ticket. Use the attached coupon, or blank sheet where larger club is formed.

FOUR FOR \$1.00 CLUB

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.:

Gentlemen—Enclosed find \$1.00 for which please send The Commoner to the following four new subscribers under your special campaign offer—FOUR FOR \$1.00—from now until the close of the presidential campaign.

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